

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4568

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

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S E C R E T USNATO 6172

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MBFR: OPTION III: APPROPRIATE DEFINITION OF THE COMMON
CEILING: SPC MEETING NOVEMBER 13

REFS: A. STATE 268678 DTG 130006Z NOV 75
B. MBFR VIENNA 514 DTG 051400Z NOV 75

1. AT NOVEMBER 13 SPC MEETING, DANISH REP (VILLADSEN)
MADE A STATEMENT ON INSTRUCTIONS ON APPROPRIATE DEFINITION OF THE
COMMON CEILING. HE NOTED THAT DENMARK HAD SHARED THE ORIGINAL
US PHILOSOPHY THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD NOT SEEK AGREEMENT WITH THE
EAST ON THE NUMERICAL LEVEL OF THE COMMON CEILING IN PHASE I.
DENMARK IS ALSO ABLE TO ACCEPT THE US COMPROMISE PROPOSAL,
AS HAVE THE FRG AND UK. DENMARK SEES NO AMBIGUITY IN THE
PENULTIMATE SENTENCE OF PARA 3 OF THE POSITION PAPER THAT THE
AHG SHOULD SEEK AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE EAST ON
THE NUMERICAL LEVEL OF THE COMMON CEILING IN PHASE I, AFTER
THE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED ON THE NUMBER.
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2. US REP (MOORE) WELCOMED THE DANISH STATEMENT, AND AGREED
THAT THERE WAS NO AMBIGUITY IN THE SENTENCE IN QUESTION.
NEVERTHELESS, IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE THE MEANING OF THIS
SENTENCE EVEN MORE CLEAR, THE US ACCEPTED THE

SUBSTANCE OF THE UK REPS SUGGESTION AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING. US REP THEN PROPOSED THE SENTENCE IN PARA 1, REF A, BUT WITH THE PHRASE "COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILINGS" INSTEAD OF "COMMON CEILING" TO REFLECT PREVIOUS US AGREEMENT ON THIS FRG POINT.

3. BELGIAN REP (BURNY) MAINTAINED THAT THE AMBIGUITY REMAINED IN THIS NEW SENTENCE, SINCE FURTHER COUNCIL GUIDANCE WOULD STILL BE NEEDED. HE WANTED ONE SENTENCE TO SAY THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD IN ADDITION SEEK A COMMON UNDERSTANDING WITH THE EAST ON THE NUMERICAL LEVEL OF THE COMMON CEILING IN PHASE I, AND ANOTHER SENTENCE SAYING THAT THE NAC WOULD LATER PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON THE PRECISE LEVEL. THIS WOULD PERMIT INCLUSION OF A SENTENCE IN THE DRAFT GUIDANCE PERMITTING THE AHG TO INFORM THE OTHER SIDE IN INITIAL PRESENTATIONS THAT THE ALLIES WERE SEEKING SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING IN PHASE I, AND WOULD PERMIT THE AHG TO WORK TOWARD THAT UNDERSTANDING.

4. NETHERLANDS REP (MEESMAN) AGREED WITH BELGIAN REP THAT AMBIGUITY REMAINED, SINCE FURTHER COUNCIL GUIDANCE WOULD STILL BE NEEDED. HIS INSTRUCTIONS FOR TODAY'S MEETING CONFIRMED THAT THE NETHERLANDS STILL WANTS THE AHG TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A STATEMENT IN INITIAL PRESENTATIONS, AND STILL WANTS A SENTENCE IN THE POSITION PAPER NOT CONTINGENT ON FURTHER NAC GUIDANCE.

5. IN THE DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWED, US, UK, (BAILES), FRG AND DANISH REPS ALL A) MAINTAINED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO STATEMENT IN INITIAL PRESENTATIONS, B) SUPPORTED THE US/UK PENULTIMATE SENTENCE OF PARA 3 OF THE POSITION PAPER, AND EXPLAINED THAT THERE WAS NO AMBIGUITY WHETHER THE AHG SHOULD SEEK A PHASE I UNDERSTANDING ON THE LEVEL OF THE COMMON CEILING, ONCE THE NAC HAD SET THE LEVEL.

6. COMMENT: WE RECOMMEND HOLDING OFF FURTHER ON THE COMPROMISE TEXT FOR PARA 1 OF THE GUIDANCE (PARA 6, REF B), FOR THREE REASONS. FIRST, VIENNA HAS INDICATED POSSIBILITY
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THAT THE DUTCH WILL FALL OFF THEIR CURRENT POSITION. THE DUTCH ARE SOMETIMES SLOW IN GETTING OUT NEW INSTRUCTIONS, SO THE FACT THAT THE DUTCH REP HAD INSTRUCTIONS TODAY TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT POSITION MAY NOT MEAN THIS IS THE FINAL DUTCH POSITION. SECOND, FRG REP INFORMED US THAT BELGIUM HAS JUST MADE A HIGH LEVEL DEMARCHE IN BONN SEEKING SUPPORT FOR THE BELGIAN POSITION, AND THAT VAN WELT CLEARLY STATED BONN SUPPORT FOR THE US COMPROMISE. THIS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY INFLUENCE THE BELGIAN POSITION. FINALLY, THE FACT THAT DENMARK HAS JOINED THE US, UK AND FRG WILL HAVE SOME IMPACT ON THE BELGIANS AND THE DUTCH. STREATOR

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